

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Replace the abstract originally provided on the cover sheet of the PCT application with the new abstract as follows. A new abstract numbered page 16 is enclosed for the last page of the application following the claims:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of designing a transport network having a plurality of network elements and a plurality of connections between the network elements by (a) defining a first network configuration and at least one alternative network configuration for the same transport network; (b) calculating for each network configuration, a probability function representing, for each maximum number of routable flows, the probability of routing such a number of flows in the network configuration currently considered; (c) calculating for each network configuration, a unit-cost-per-flow function calculated as the ratio between a sum of the costs relative to the network elements of the network configuration currently considered and the probability function; and (d) comparing the unit-cost-per-flow functions of the network configurations considered, for choosing a network configuration having a lowest unit-cost-per-flow value.